PHARMACARE NEWSLETTER

In this issue

Pharmacare/PharmaNet Policies and Procedures manual update 1
Special services fees 1
Benefits 2
Non benefits 2
LCA updates 3
Limited coverage drugs 4
Drugs under review 4

This newsletter provides information on the Pharmacare program for British Columbia's community pharmacists. Please circulate among dispensing staff.

Pharmacare on the Web:
www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/pharme

Pharmacare/PharmaNet Policies and Procedures manual update

Version 2 of the Pharmacare/PharmaNet Policies and Procedures manual is now available on the Pharmacare Web site at **www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/pharme**. The information in Version 2 is current as of August 2002.

For your convenience, a summary of substantive updates has been posted on the Web site. In the online manual, all significant changes are indicated by red type.

For the most current information, please refer to the online manual as we are unable to issue updated hard copies at this time.

Special services fees

The number of Special Services fees paid for by Pharmacare over the past twelve months are:

DATE	NO. OF FEES
July 2001	5067
Aug 201	5354
Sep 2001	4884
Oct 2001	5602
Nov 2001	5405
Dec 2001	5149

DATE	NO. OF FEES
Jan 2002	3244
Feb 2002	2981
Mar 2002	3288
April 2002	3581
May 2002	3789
June 2002	3804

Benefits

The following new products have been included as eligible Pharmacare benefits on Plans A, B, C, E and F:

DIN	MAN	DRUG NAME	Short Term	Long Term	Palliative Care Eligible
2245688	RAM	Ratio-Topisalic (betamet diprop/salicylic acid) lotion 0.05-2%		Y	
2205963	LUI	Dexiron - liq IM IV (iron dextran complex) ampul 50mg/ml		Y	
2243986	APX	Apo-Amoxi Clav (amox tr/potassium clavulanate) susp recon 125mg/31.25mg per 5ml	Y		Y
2243987	APX	Apo-Amoxi Clav (amox tr/potassium clavulanate) susp recon 250mg/62.5mg per 5ml	Y		Y
2242879	WAY	Premplus® (estrogen,con/m-progest acet) tabs seq 6.25mg/5mg		Y	
2244641	ABB	Biaxin® (clarithromycin) susp recon 250mg/5ml	Y		Y
2242163	FAU	Kadian® (morphine sulfate) caps 24H pel 10mg	Y		Y
2243563	OMG	Metoclopramide OMEGA (Metoclopramide HCl) injec vial 5mg/ml		Y	
2204274	OMG	Dexamethasone OMEGA (Dexamethasone phosphate) injec ampul 10mg/ml		Y	Y
2244646	RAM	Ratio-AMOXI clav (amox tr/potassium clavulanate) susp recon 125-31.25	Y		Y
2244647	RAM	Ratio-AMOXI clav (amox tr/potassium clavulanate) susp recon 250-62.5/5	Y		Y
2244147	SIL	Sufentanil citrate (sufentanil citrate) inj ampul USP	Y		Y

Non benefits

Pharmacare's Drug Benefit Committee recently completed the review of the following products and recommended that these products not be added as benefits under the program:

DIN	MAN	DRUG NAME
2243602	FRS	Singulair® (montelukast sodium) tabs chew 4mg
2238216	FRS	Singulair® (montelukast sodium) tabs chew 5mg
2244612	PHD	UNIDET® (tolterodine tartrate) caps 2mg SR 24H
2219336	OMG	DIPHENIST OMEGA (diphenhydramine HCl) vial 50mg/ml

LCA updates

New products categorized to LCA and/or RDP

The following new products under the Low Cost Alternative Program (LCA) / Reference Drug Program (RDP) have been included as eligible Pharmacare benefits on Plans A, B, C, E & F

DIN	MAN	DRUG NAME	FULL/ PARTIAL	LCA/RDP Price	Short Term	Long Term	Plan G Eligible	Palliative Care Eligible
2245822	RAM	Ratio-Lovastatin tabs 20mg	P	$1.4207		Y		
2245823	RAM	Ratio-Lovastatin tabs 40mg	P	$2.6232		Y		
2245283	UNK*	FXT™ 40 (fluoxetine HCl) caps 40mg	P	$2.0684		Y	Y	Y
2244726	APX	Apo-Medroxy (medroxyprogesterone acetate) tabs 2.5mg	P	$0.0822		Y		
2244727	APX	Apo-Medroxy ((medroxyprogesterone acetate) tabs 5mg	P	$0.1634		Y		
2244350	NXP	Nu-Pravastatin (pravastatin sodium) tabs 10mg	P	$1.0769		Y		
2244351	NXP	Nu-Pravastatin (pravastatin sodium) tabs 20mg	P	$1.2860		Y		
2244352	NXP	Nu-Pravastatin (pravastatin sodium) tabs 40mg	P	$1.5435		Y		
2246046	GPM	Gen Nizatidine caps 150mg	P	$0.5501		Y		
2246047	GPM	Gen Nizatidine caps 300mg	P	$1.0767		Y		
2245232	APX	Apo-Clindamycin (clindamycin HCl) caps 150mg	P	$0.5632	Y			Y
2245233	APX	Apo-Clindamycin (clindamycin HCl) caps 300mg	P	$1.1191	Y			Y

* ORYX Pharmaceuticals

Limited coverage drugs

Available under Special Authority Only. (Please refer to Web site for the criteria for the following medications, except Tracleer®, the criteria for which follows)

DIN	MAN	DRUG NAME	LCA/RDP Price	Short Term	Long Term
2244982	UNK*	Tracleer® (bosentan) tabs 125mg			Y
2245247	APX	Apo-Gliclazide (gliclazide) tabs 80mg	$0.2871		Y
2244508	PMS	PMS-Butorphanol (butorphanol tartrate) spray 10mg/ml	$3.1833		Y
2245077	APX	Apo-Zopiclone (zopiclone) tabs 5mg	$0.2283	Y	
2245643	PMS	PMS-Fluconazole tabs 50mg	$3.5196		Y
2245644	PMS	PMS-Fluconazole tabs 100mg	$6.3014		Y
2245292	GPM	Gen-Fluconazole tabs 50mg	$3.5196		Y
2245293	GPM	Gen-Fluconazole tabs 100mg	$6.3014		Y
2245697	GPM	Gen-Fluconazole tabs 150mg	$10.9247		Y

*Actelion Pharmaceuticals Canada

Tracleer® (bosentan) tabs 125mg)

- for the treatment of primary pulmonary hypertension, or pulmonary hypertension secondary to scleroderma. Consideration of special authority requests for coverage of bosentan will be limited to established criteria and when prescribed by physicians currently specializing in the treatment of this rare and severe disease (Drs. D. Ostrow, R. Levy, D. Human and G. Sandor).

Drugs under review

The following drug submissions are currently under review by the Drug Benefit Committee of Pharmacare:

anakinra (KINERET®)	filgrastim (NEUPOGEN®), new indication
ancestim (STEMGEN®)	glimepiride (AMARYL®)
alfuzosin (XATRAL®)	mometasone furoate (AZMAX Twisthaler®)
bimatoprost 0.03% ophth soln (LUMIGAN®)	rabeprazole (PARIET®)
bisoprolol (MONOCOR®), resubmission	repaglinide (GLUCONORM®), resubmission
botulinium toxin (BOTOX®), new indication	rivastigmine (EXELON®), resubmission
clopidogrel (PLAVIX®) new indication	tacrolimus ointment (PROTOPIC®)
donepezil (ARICEPT®), resubmission	17-b-estradiol (VAGIFEM®)
eprosartan (TEVETEN®), resubmission	unoprostone 0.15% (RESCULA®)